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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WIGTON



A N N U A L R E P O R T

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of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

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I. S. JONES M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, also Assistant County Medical Officer.

R. C. BLACKBURN Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.A. (Scot.), Chief Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor.

L. J. PEARSON Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I., Certificate of the Liverpool University School of Hygiene in Meat and Food Inspection and Sanitary Science. Additional Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor.
Resigned: 30th June, 1954.

D. E. PARRINGTON Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I., Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute for Smoke Inspector, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Association member of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers (by examination). Additional Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor.
Resigned: 31st May, 1954.

S. W. COULING Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Meat Inspectors Certificates of the R.S.I. and Liverpool University School of Hygiene, Smoke Inspectors Certificates R.S.I. and Liverpool University School of Hygiene, Certificate R.S.I. for Sanitary Science as applied to Public Works and Buildings, Associate Members Certificate Institute of Sanitary Engineers.
Appointed: 30th August, 1954.

F. E. TURNBULL Clerk-Typist.

Council Offices,
WIGTON.

June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigton Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1954 in compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The Birth Rate of 16.59 is slightly lower than that for the previous year, which was 17.64. The rate for England and Wales is 15.2.

The Death Rate is 11.44. The 1953 rate was 12.94. The rate for the whole country is 11.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is high, being 38.46. This compares unfavourably with the 1953 figure of 21.78 which was the lowest ever recorded for the area. The figure for England and Wales is 25.5.

It is pleasing to record that there have been no deaths from Maternal or Puerperal causes since 1950.

Generally speaking the incidence of infectious disease was slight and the area was free from Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis.

Housing, Water, and Sewerage Schemes received the active attention of the Council during the year.

I am particularly concerned about the water position which has not improved in the last two years despite the efforts of the Council. The shortage of water in the eastern parishes is serious, especially in dry weather, but I am even more concerned about the quality of the supply to these parishes and to Wigton town.

In times of storm the water is discoloured and is liable to contamination by undesirable surface drainage.

The Ministry officials are aware of these circumstances and of our desire to eliminate all doubtful sources of supply at the earliest possible moment.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their help during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in Acres ...	...	...	138,620
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population			23,510
Population at Census of 1931	...	...	22,058
" " " " 1951	...	...	23,733
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books	...	...	7,177
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£129,545
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£491

POPULATION:

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population for 1954 of 23,510 shows an increase of 100 on the previous year.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years:

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Registrar-General's estimated population:</u>		
1945	21,660	Civilian Population	
1946	22,260	"	"
1947	22,460	"	"
1948	22,920	"	"
1949	24,090	Civilian & Service population	
1950	24,160	"	"
1951	23,760	"	"
1952	23,510	"	"
1953	23,410	"	"
1954	23,510	"	"

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT:

LIVE BIRTHS:

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	...	...	378	196	182
Illegitimate	...	...	12	7	5
Total live births	...	...	390	203	187

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 16.59

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	7	6	1
Illegitimate	...	...	2	1	1
Total still births	9	7	2

RATE PER 1,000 (live and still births) - 22.55

DEATHS

All causes	269	142	127
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DEATH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 11.44

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	nil
Deaths from other Maternal Causes	...	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	...	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)		nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	38.46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		39.68
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		nil

According to the Registrar-General's figures there were fifteen deaths of infants under one year of age during 1954. The causes of death are given in the following table :-

	0-24 hours	3-12 days	one month	two months	five months	six months	Total
Prematurity ...	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Birth Injury ...	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
Congenital defect	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho pneumonia	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Atelactasis ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Meningitis ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	7	3	2	1	1	1	15

TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AS A WHOLE, AND CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, FOR THE YEAR 1953:

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales ...	15.2	11.3	25.5
Administrative County of Cumberland	16.4	11.9	27.6
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven) ...	17.5	11.4	24.9
Rural Districts of Cumberland	15.7	12.1	29.6
RURAL DISTRICT OF WIGTON	16.59	11.44	38.46

The following table shows the birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate per thousand of the population during the past ten years :

Year:	Birth Rate:	Death Rate:	Infantile Mortality Rate:
1945	19.7	12.5	46
1946	18.2	12.2	24.6
1947	22.3	12.9	40
1948	20.07	11.86	32.61
1949	18.48	12.13	37.65
1950	17.09	11.29	24.21
1951	16.90	13.47	37.31
1952	18.63	11.86	22.37
1953	17.64	12.94	21.78
1954	16.59	11.44	38.46

MATERNAL MORTALITY:

There were no deaths from this cause during 1954.

The following table gives the maternal mortality rate for the last ten years:

Year:	No. of births (live and still):	Deaths:	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:
1945	437	1	2.28
1946	421	1	2.37
1947	515	nil	nil
1948	477	nil	nil
1949	433	2	4.61
1950	423	nil	nil
1951	414	nil	nil
1952	447	nil	nil
1953	413	nil	nil
1954	399	nil	nil

WATER:

I wish to thank Mr. J.R.Watters, the Water Engineer for the following report:-

SCHEDULE OF PARISH WATER SUPPLIES - YEAR 1954:

Parish	Dwelling Houses Existing	Population Estimated	Dwelling Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
Aspatria ..	1,005	3,517	1,005	3,517
Allhallows ..	211	738	208	730
Allonby ..	201	703	200	700
Aikton ..	134	469	130	455
Boltons ..	186	651	158	553
Bromfield ..	183	641	171	598
Bowness ..	428	1,499	423	1,481
Caldbeck ..	244	854	161	562
Dundraw ..	49	172	49	172
Holme St. Cuthbert	151	528	150	525
Holme Abbey ..	218	763	214	750
Holme East Waver	88	308	85	298
Holme Low ..	113	396	112	393
Hayton ..	66	231	65	227
Ireby ..	171	599	126	441
Kirkbride ..	143	501	142	497
Kirkbampton ..	98	343	89	311
Silloth ..	960	3,360	960	3,360
Sebergham ..	111	388	98	342
Thursby ..	243	846	240	840
Torpenhow ..	175	612	164	574
Wigton ..	1,312	4,592	1,310	4,585
Waverton ..	110	384	98	343
Westward ..	216	756	178	624
Woodside ..	182	637	178	621
Westnewton ..	76	266	76	266
Total :-	7,074	24,754	6,790	23,765

The year 1954 was remarkable for two main factors relating to water supply in general.

First, that after many years of delay, a start has been made on the implementation of the Council's proposals for general improvement of water supplies within the Rural District.

Contractors were started on 1st July on Stage 2 of the Development Scheme which involves a new Intake on Halls Beck from which additional water, up to one million gallons per day will be brought down to Chapelhouse Reservoir in a 12" main.

A new Intake on Aughtertree Spring will provide a useful addition of 200,000 gallons per day being brought down to the Filter Works at Quarry Hill in a 9" main, and an additional 12" main is being laid from Chapelhouse Reservoir to Filter Works.

The completion of these Works will make available an ample supply of raw water at the Filter Works to meet all present and future estimated demands for the whole Rural District below the 300' O.D. contour.

This augmentation of the raw water supply will not, however, provide much benefit to the district until the new trunk and distribution mains are laid, as provided for in Stage 3, to convey water to the eastern parishes where dry weather shortage is acute.

Secondly, the rainfall for the year was 16 inches above average, and repeated flooding of the gathering grounds covering the springs supplying Wigton Town area and the eastern parishes resulted in serious contamination by surface drainage of all water supplies in these areas.

On 12th February, 1954, a deputation from the Council was called to the Ministry at Whitehall to discuss the question of unsatisfactory water supplies in the eastern parishes, as proved by previous bacteriological reports, and to define such action as the Council might be able to take to eliminate the cause of the serious contamination of the sources.

I reported on the existing bad sources and explained the Council's opinion that it would be neither desirable or economic to attempt such improvement of the existing sources as would render the supply safe, and that the only useful remedy would be for the Ministry to give approval to the Council's proposals as outlined in Stage 3.

To meet the requirements of the Ministry regarding the quality of the water in question the time factor was regarded as important, the question being how much, and how soon could anything be done.

I suggested that if the Ministry could sanction the laying of the Stage 3 mains only from Filter Works to Thursby area, which could be completed in 12 months, we could eliminate altogether the two bad sources of Greenfoot and Townthwaite, but that we would not have sufficient water to eliminate the Wigton Town source until the whole of Stage 3 proposals were completed.

The Council's deputation left the conference under the impression that the Ministry would be recommended to agree to this proposal for the necessary mains to be laid as early as possible, and that consideration would be given to the approval of the remainder of Stage 3 proposals, which, on completion, would secure an ample quantity of filtered and treated water for Wigton Town as well as all other eastern parishes.

In the meantime these districts continue to suffer the disadvantage of impure water supply, and in dry weather the quantity available is not sufficient to meet the reasonable demand for domestic supply, while numerous dairy farms have no water for stock or milk production.

In Caldbeck parish, where Hill Farms predominate, the necessary improvements required by the Ministry of Agriculture cannot be provided until mains water is available.

A new mains system for the whole parish is provided in Stage 4 of the Council's proposals, but this again awaits the completion of Stage 3.

The western half of the district including the towns of Aspatria and Silloth, is reasonably well supplied with water of excellent quality, and it is hoped that this great boon may be extended to cover the eastern parishes in the near future.

J. R. WATTERS

Water Engineer.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

Wigton Town Sewerage Scheme: Work on this scheme is progressing favourably but has been somewhat slow owing to adverse weather conditions.

Wigton Trade Sewer: The work of replacing the cast iron pipes with acid resisting pipes at Knowe Hill has not yet been completed. Meantime the present unsatisfactory state of affairs continues whereby sewage from the township of Wigton and trade waste from the British Rayophane factory is taken in the sewerage system of the town. Owing to the dilapidated state of the sewerage works very little treatment indeed takes place. The sewerage and trade waste liquors find their way into Colemire sough, as has been the practice for a number of years. The grossly polluted condition of this sough and the river Waver in the vicinity of its point of discharge is most unsatisfactory.

Greenrow Pumping Station: I regret to report that the unsatisfactory conditions existing at this pumping station continue. Fortunately I am able to report that during the last 18 months the Council has not been guilty of polluting the nearby stream.

Oulton Village Sewerage Scheme: A Ministry Inquiry was held into this matter on the 3rd September, 1954; the scheme was agreed to in principle but a starting date has not been given.

SCHOOL SANITATION:

The following schools are still without waterborne sanitation:-

Aldoth, Boltons, Hayton, Holme St. Cuthbert, Kirkbampton, Oulton, Waverbridge and Westward.

Biglands and Fingland schools have chemical closets. I have received complaints from Fingland school about the unsatisfactory working of the chemical closets. I know the school managers have taken this matter up with the County authority.

I mentioned in my last Report that Waverbridge school was not to be closed and that I hoped waterborne sanitation would be installed.

I understand the Ministry of Education have not agreed to the closure of Westward school, that being so it would seem a proper time to press for improvements to the present conservancy type of sanitation.

Now that school meals are served in all schools I think the provision of hot water for hand washing is essential.

NUTRITION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN:

The nutritional standard of school children in the area remains satisfactory. Of the children examined 47.46 were found to be above average nutrition, 52.16 were found to have normal nutrition and .38 were found to be slightly below normal.

FOOD POISONING:

There were no notifications of food poisoning during 1954.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47:

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951:

No official action was required under these regulations, but one case of an old man from Wigton who was in need of care and attention was dealt with satisfactorily without resort to statutory powers.

HOUSING:

The following table shows the houses built in the area by The North Eastern Housing Association Limited, since 1939 :-

	1939	1940	1944	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Wigton ..													273
Brindfield	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Brackenlands	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kirkland Avenue	-	-	-	-	42	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Western Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	42	18	
Cross Lane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	
Aspatia ..													203
Noble Croft ..	-	57	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
North View ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	46	8	16	2	
Agricultural houses	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Newton Arlosh ..	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
West Silloth ..	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	10	56	-	26	2	129
Kirkbride ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	2	-	-	-	-	22
Thursby ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	22	-	-	-	-	38
Torpenhow ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Uldale.. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Abbeytown ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	22	38	70
Allonby ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	-	-	4	22
Ireby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Blennerhasset ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
Hayton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Drumburgh ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Westnewton ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Kirkbampton ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Aikton.. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Fletcher town ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Glasson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Waverton ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Totals:	98	57	12	14	56	50	54	110	108	68	110	86	823

From 1939 to 1953 ninety-three houses were built by private enterprise.

In addition 25 private dwellinghouses were completed during the year.

OVERCROWDING:

The following comparative table shows the position regarding overcrowding throughout the area :-

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	85	84	53	45	58	21	26	16
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..	28	20	13	8	27	1	13	2
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	33	21	44	16	14	38	8	12

The 12 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year were re-housed by the Council. In 1953 six overcrowded families were allocated Council houses.

SLUM CLEARANCE:

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, calls for a resumption of slum clearance activities throughout the country.

The Minister wishes to be informed before August, 1955 of the Council's proposals for dealing with unsatisfactory dwelling-houses under the various sections of the principal Act.

A survey of sub-standard properties has recently been completed and the statistics will shortly be submitted to the Council for their consideration.

SUB-STANDARD PROPERTY:

During the year official representations were made in respect of 29 unfit dwellings.

Arising out of this five Demolition Orders and one Closing Order were made. In addition Undertakings not to relet for purposes of human habitation were accepted from owners of ten properties.

The following table gives details :-

Demolition Orders:

West View, Aikton (occ. Nixon)	(not demolished)	1	
Old Pit Cottages, Mealsgate	" "	3	
Cottage at Drumburgh (occ. Mossop)	" "	1	
* High Whinnow, Thursby	" "	1	6

Closing Orders (Section 12, Housing Act, 1936):

* Cottage adjoining Ash Tree Farm, (one room used as Newton Arlosh (occ. Reed)	sleeping accom. for agricultural worker)	1	
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Closing Orders (Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953):

23, Station Road, Wigton	(house empty)	1	
* Cottage adjoining Ash Tree Farm, Newton Arlosh (occ. Benson)	" "	1	2

Undertakings:

West End, Allonby (occ. Harker)	(use as store)	1	
Chapel House, Blennerhasset	(use as agric. store)	1	
Greenspot, Kirkbride	(use as agric. store)	1	
Cottage at Hesket Newmarket	(reconditioned)	1	
Field House, Seaville	(not to be relet)	1	
The Old Vicarage, Ireby	(to be reconditioned)	1	
West End, Kirkbride	(conversion to garage)	1	
West End, Kirkbride	(improvements - to be demolished when owner- occupier leaves)	1	
Parkgate Cottages, Waverton	(to be converted to one house)	2	
* Smithy Cottage, Mealsgate	(conversion to garage)	1	
* Ivy Cottage, Waverton	(reconditioned)	1	
* Thimble Hall, Wigton	(to be replaced by a new house)	1	13

Carried forward:

Thornby Moor, Thursby	1	
Kilngate, Welton	1	
Barugh Cottages, Waverton	2	
Waverton Cottages, Waverton	3	
Brow Top, Yearngill	2	
The Stampery (occ. McCahy)	1	
37, Water Street, Wigton.	1	
16, Meetinghouse Lane, Wigton	1	
Railway Cottage, Rosewain	1	13
		<u>35</u>

* Brought forward from 1953.

MEAT INSPECTION:

Mr. Blackburn is reporting on the work carried out in the abattoir during 1954.

MILK SUPPLY:

Nine premises are now registered for the storage and distribution of milk, one less than last year.

One hundred and forty eight samples were submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for biological examination, all of which proved negative.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 - 1950:

DEFENCE (SALE OF FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1943:

I wish to thank Mr. Nobbs, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cumberland County Council, for the following report on the number of samples taken in the area during the year 1954:-

MILK		OTHER THAN MILK		TOTAL SAMPLES
Genuine	Not Genuine	Genuine	Not Genuine	105
52	7	45	1	

Schedule of Articles Sampled (other than milk):

Baking Powder	Ground Rice
Beef Dripping	Ice Cream
Beef Suet	Jam - Blackcurrant
Bread - National	Jam - Raspberry
Buttered Macaroons	Kooloze
Cockles in Vinegar	Lemon Flavour Pie Filling
Cocoa	Margarine
College Pudding	Milk of Magnesia Tablets
Cereal Soup Mixture	Mixed Peel
Cheese & Macaroni	Orange Crush
Cooking Fat	Pineapple - Tinned
Cod Liver Oil Capsules	Sausage - Beef
Chico Coffee Mixture	Sausage - Pork
Fish Cakes	Snowcake Mixture
Fudge	Sponge Mixture
Fruit Loaf	Split Peas
Grape Fruit Squash	Table Jelly

Unsatisfactory Samples:

Two of the unsatisfactory milk samples were certified by the Public Analyst to contain added water. Proceedings were taken against the farmer concerned who was fined £6 on each of two charges and ordered to pay £3.3s.0d. costs.

The remaining unsatisfactory milk samples were minor deficiencies in either non-fatty solids or fat.

A sample of beef sausage was satisfactory with regard to meat content, but the vendor failed to disclose that the sausages contained preservative and was cautioned.

TUBERCULOSIS:

The following table gives particulars of cases notified and of the deaths during 1954 :-

Age Group	New cases				Deaths			
	Non-Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:-	6	8	-	1	2	-	-	-

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1954:-

	Males:	Females:	Total:
Pulmonary	53	57	110
Non-pulmonary	9	15	24
All forms of Tuberculosis	62	72	134

Below is a table giving the number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis in the area during the last ten years :-

Year:		Pulmonary: Non-Pulmonary:				Total:	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1945	.. .. .	2	5	-	-	7	
1946	.. .. .	6	3	-	2	11	
1947	.. .. .	3	3	4	1	11	
1948	.. .. .	3	6	-	2	11	
1949	.. .. .	4	5	1	-	10	
1950	.. .. .	4	5	1	-	10	
1951	.. .. .	2	2	-	-	4	
1952	.. .. .	1	1	-	1	3	
1953	.. .. .	-	2	-	-	2	
1954	.. .. .	2	-	-	-	2	

MONTOUX TESTING AND B.C.G. VACCINATION:

In an attempt to further reduce the incidence of tuberculosis the County Council with the consent of the Ministry of Health has started (March, 1955) montoux testing and B.C.G. vaccination of the 13 year old group of school children throughout the county.

As a preliminary to this, during the autumn of 1954, montoux testing was carried out in the Wigton R.D.C. area at Silloth, Aspatria and Wigton on the five to six year old children. Of course this has always been done with the consent of the parents of the children.

The following table gives the results of the findings of this test :-

Area:		Test No. Completed:	No. Positive:	% Positive:
Silloth	..	87	3	3.5
Aspatria	..	86	4	4.6
Wigton	..	117	6	5.1

The family doctors and the consultant chest physician were notified of the results.

A positive montoux test shows that the child concerned had at some time been exposed to tuberculous infection, but as far as the Wigton area is concerned no cases of active tuberculosis were found from these tests.

ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS FROM DAIRY CATTLE:

For many years eradication of tuberculosis in cattle has been going on on a voluntary basis in the county and during the last two years the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries has offered a free service to the farmers.

Since March, 1953 the eradication has become compulsory and the Ministry's Veterinary Officers are now dealing with the few herds which are not yet attested. It is hoped that by the autumn the Minister will declare the north-western area an attested area.

This means that the risk of bovine tuberculosis in humans will be virtually eradicated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

The following table shows the number of cases notified (other than tuberculosis) during the year :-

Age Group	DISEASE						
	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Meas- les	Pneu- monia	Erysip- elas	Men- ingo- coccal	Puer- peral Pyrexia
0-1 ..	-	3	6	3	-	1	-
1-5 ..	3	22	63	-	-	-	-
5-15 ..	6	12	98	-	-	-	-
15-25 ..	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
25-45 ..	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
45-65 ..	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
	11	37	168	9	4	2	1
Deaths ..	-	-	-	6	-	-	-

The incidence of infectious diseases was comparatively light. Measles and whooping cough were prevalent towards the end of the year but fortunately there were no fatalities.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

DIPHTHERIA:

The following table gives the number of children immunised during the year in the Wigton Rural District :-

Primary inoculation - children up to five years of age 314
children between five and fifteen 49

Booster - or reinforcing doses given to children who
have previously been immunised 777

The number of primary inoculations in 1953 was 229 and the booster doses given was only 207.

During 1953 poliomyelitis was prevalent in the Carlisle district and we had ten cases in our own area. During this epidemic all inoculations were withheld.

The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths for England and Wales and Wigton district since 1945 :-

Year:	England and Wales		Wigton District	
	Deaths:	Notif- ications:	Deaths:	Notif- ications:
1945	722	18,596	1	10
1946	472	11,986	-	21
1947	244	5,609	-	-
1948	156	3,575	-	2
1949	84	1,890	-	-
1950	49	962	-	-
1951	33	664	-	-
1952	32	376	-	-
1953	23	266	-	-
1954	9(provis.)	182(provis.)	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1954:

Cause			M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	2	-	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	3	4	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	5	-	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms		15	11	26
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	-	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	23	29	52
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	28	16	44
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	6	3	9
20.	Other heart disease	...	21	29	50
21.	Other circulatory disease...	...	1	2	3
22.	Influenza	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	5	1	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	7	2	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system		3	2	5
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	-	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	1	2	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	2	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		14	18	32
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	4	3	7
35.	Suicide	...	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-	-
All causes			142	127	269

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	31	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	92	12	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	123	22	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	2	2	-	2	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	2	-

PORT OF SILLOTH

I wish to thank Mr. A. Dodge, H.M. Customs & Excise Officer,
for the following particulars :-

STATEMENT OF TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1954

From:	No. of Ships:	Remarks:
Arrivals with cargo from foreign ports	33	Basic slag, Grain, Potash, and Scrap Ingot Moulds from Europe. Iron pyrites and phosphates from North Africa. Perlite from Sardinia.
Arrivals from the Republic of Ireland	9	To load coal for the Republic of Ireland.
Arrivals from other British ports in Ballast	37	To load coal for the republic of Ireland; Ingot Moulds for Holland, and Flour, Phosphates and Sulphate of Ammonia for other British ports.
Arrivals from other British ports with cargo	91	Grain, Phosphates, Flour and Government Stores.
	170	

(Sgd.) A. DODGE.

Customs & Excise.

R E P O R T

on the

Work Carried Out

by the

Sanitary Inspectors

During the Year

To Dr. I.S.Jones,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1954.

As mentioned in the preamble to my previous Report both Mr. Pearson and Mr. Parrington left the department to take posts with other authorities. Both officers have improved their position and are doing well.

These changes meant a depleted inspectorial staff for a period of three months of the year under review.

The more important aspect, however, was the decision to appoint an Engineer and Surveyor, as a result of which I ceded some of the duties for which I was formerly responsible.

Consequently only one additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed, namely Mr. S.W.Couling, who came to us from the City of Lincoln. Mr. Couling is an able officer of wide experience and should do well here.

MEAT INSPECTION:

The year 1954 saw a big change in the position as affecting the slaughter of live stock for human consumption. With the derationing of meat the Government gave up control of slaughtering, which had been centralised under their jurisdiction for 15 years. Local Authorities were faced, at short notice, with the task of ensuring adequate slaughtering facilities for the butchers in their area, thus safeguarding continuity of the meat supply.

Arising out of this the Council leased the premises in Wigton belonging to Messrs. Hopes Auction Co. Ltd., and formerly occupied by the Ministry of Food as an abattoir.

Of the 19 butchers in the area 11 use the local authority abattoir, five buy exclusively from wholesalers outside the area, and three butchers, one a pork butcher, have their own private slaughterhouses.

The premises of the latter three were improved to meet the requirements of the Council, from whom they hold licences.

The present arrangements are of an interim nature, awaiting the implementation of the Government's long term policy of what has been termed 'moderate concentration' of public abattoirs throughout the country.

Of more interest to Councillors and public alike will be certain findings which emerge from a study of the figures contained in Table Five of the Report.

It will be noted that the year is evenly divided as between the period of Ministry control and freedom to purchase live stock in the open market.

The public demand for choice beef is clearly shown, with a corresponding falling off in demand for cow beef, veal and mutton. Pork was also much sought after.

The quality of the meat sent out from the abattoir during the second half of the year was of the highest order. Even the cow beef was the best of its kind.

Another pleasing feature is the incidence of disease which shows a marked improvement for the latter period.

These remarks concerning quality and disease apply equally to the private slaughterhouses.

I suppose the splendid progress being made in the eradication of tuberculosis from the farm stock of this county will result in this disease becoming a rarity in our abattoirs.

What a tremendous stride forward that will be. I can recall the time when tuberculosis in its more serious forms was common place in the slaughterhouse. In my student days one was warned of the surreptitious manoeuvres of some butchers in their attempts to obliterate all evidence of this disease before offering the meat for sale to an unsuspecting public.

Today the meat inspector shares the full confidence of the butcher and excellent co-operation exists to the common good.

One can only hope that in eradicating one major disease the path is not made easier for others. Nature does not take kindly to interference.

REFUSE REMOVAL:

No changes of importance affecting this service were made during the year. Minor additions to the itinerary of all three vehicles were made on request, and the demands of the ever increasing number of new houses has been met.

The services of a bulldozer were used on the newly acquired Longthwaite disposal site in Wigton, in preparation for tipping operations. However I felt it expedient to defer such operations for a time, concentrating meanwhile on the old tip at the east end of Wigton, which is nearing capacity.

It was thought that the attendant could not adequately look after both places, and in view of the need for strict supervision at the Longthwaite tip owing to the proximity of the junior school and residential property, work is being concentrated on east end.

Supervision of refuse tips in a scattered rural area such as this is not easy, and I am gravely concerned about the condition of all refuse disposal points.

At none of these is controlled tipping practised, nor have I the staff to even undertake tidying up operations properly. This latter duty is incumbent on the collectors themselves at the time of discharging their load as far as the village dumps are concerned. I use the word 'dumps' advisedly.

Unfortunately modern technique applied to refuse disposal in a rural area costs money, but the day is coming when this problem will have to be faced.

RODENT CONTROL:

The test baiting of 17 sewerage schemes was carried out and all proved negative for rats.

In test baiting a harmless pre-bait such as damp sausage rusk is used in ten per cent of the manholes. In the event of a 'take', which is indicated by the disappearance of part or all of the bait, a more comprehensive treatment culminating in the laying of poisoned baits is undertaken. In village schemes affected the whole system is probably so treated, but in larger systems an area surrounding the infested section is tackled.

Three village schemes known to be affected were subjected to full treatments, in addition to the test baiting of the 17 schemes mentioned above.

Silloth sewers were not dealt with, but as certain sections are subject to tidal action and others to the effects of mechanical pumping, the omission was not serious.

Only two refuse tips were treated, due to lack of staff on account of illness. At one of these 153 bodies were recovered, and only 12 ozs. poison were used to achieve this result.

As in other years since the operation of the Pests Act, 1949, practically no rodent control precautions were exercised by or through the Council at properties other than their own.

HOUSING:

Housing remains one of the major problems confronting the Council, despite the erection of some 941 new houses since the end of the war.

Seven houses condemned prior to the outbreak of war as being unfit for human habitation are still held under requisition and are occupied. In addition 41 families are housed in converted ex-R.A.F. hutments at Silloth. Although possessing reasonable internal amenity value these converted hutments leave much to be desired as living accommodation in winter time.

The Council's waiting list of applicants for fresh accommodation is 519 strong. However a study of the list reveals a much improved position compared with that in previous years.. The numerical smallness of the families remaining is noticeable, similarly the greatly reduced number of families sharing accommodation.

The housing problem now shows signs of change in that financial considerations are playing a greater part. The high rents of the newer post war houses tend to preclude some applicants in the lower income groups. If the true position were known I believe it would be a surprise to see how many applications relate to the cheaper types of houses only.

The position concerning the abatement of overcrowding continues to improve. Only 16 cases are recorded compared with 85 in 1947, 84 in 1948, 53 in 1949, 45 in 1950, 58 in 1951, 21 in 1952 and 26 in 1953.

During the year efforts were made to reduce the number of sub-standard houses. Whenever the Council decided to rehouse a family from a bad house an immediate attempt was made to ensure either the improvement of the property or its disuse for purposes of housing. Arising out of this legal action was instituted against the owners of 29 houses.

Another means of improving the housing position, that afforded by the Housing Act, 1949, is by way of improvement grants. Twentysix applications for such grants were approved. Compare this with seven in the previous year, two in 1952 and three in 1951.

Two hundred and sixty-nine visits were made in connection with work under this heading, as compared with 77 in 1953. It must be borne in mind however that many enquiries are made which do not reach the committee stage, and inspections of work progressing are included in this figure of 269 visits.

The major problem of slum clearance remains largely untouched, although plans are being finalised indicating the magnitude of the problem. From this overall picture the Council must outline its programme for the next five years, and give an estimate of the time deemed necessary to complete the whole task.

T A B L E O N E

MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATISTICAL TABLE

1.	Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-	
(1)(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	110
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	344
(2)(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	-
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	-
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	29
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	62
2.	Romey of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :-	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	55
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-	
(1)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners	-
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Act :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	3
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-	
(i)	By owners	-
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	-

(3)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	6
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	3
(c)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council	13
(4)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-
4.	Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding :-	
(1)(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	16
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein ..	18
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein ..	110
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(3)(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	12
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	70

T A B L E T W O

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing Act, 1936, Inspections	..	297
Housing Act, 1949/52 Inspections	..	269
Public Health Act, 1936, Inspections	..	344
Housing defects	.. .. 80	
Otherwise	.. .. 264	
Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Inspections	..	727
Food preparation rooms	.. .. 41	
Ice cream premises	.. .. 10	
Dairies	.. .. 24	
Food shops	.. .. 20	
Markets	.. .. 26	
Public abattoir	.. .. 447	
Unsound food in shops	.. .. 27	
Knackers yards -	
Private slaughterhouses	.. .. 111	
Registration of premises	.. .. 21	
Council property	.. ..	104
Council houses for repair	.. ..	237
Sewerage Schemes	.. ..	123
Sewers and drains examined and/or tested	.. ..	151
Factories	.. ..	29
Building byelaws	.. ..	818
Work in progress	.. ..	236
New houses inspected	.. ..	225
Town & Country Planning	.. ..	140
New housing sites not developed	.. ..	20
Housing applications investigated	.. ..	349
Refuse tips	.. ..	37
Rodent control	.. ..	61
Camping sites	.. ..	11
Schools	.. ..	50
Public conveniences	.. ..	26
Infectious disease enquiries	.. ..	16
Shops Act, 1934	.. ..	-
Petroleum Regulations	.. ..	6

T A B L E T H R E E

WORK CARRIED OUT AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Conversions to water carriage system					37
By way of septic tanks				28	
Connections to Council's sewers				9	
Minor Structural alterations and improvements to Council houses					334
Major Structural alterations and improvements to Private property					28
Additional houses constructed					112
Entirely new construction - private enterprise				25	
Entirely new construction - local authority				86	
Conversions from other buildings - private enterprise				1	
Major structural repairs and improvements to other premises					20
To business premises				8	
To factory premises				2	
To school premises				10	
Baths provided					47
Washbasins and sinks provided					66
Water closets provided					71
New ranges and grates provided					35
Hot water laid on					39
Ashbins provided					14
Electricity installations					4
New drains laid					137
New byres built					25
New dairies built					5
Existing byres and dairies renovated					10
Barns etc. erected					17
New garages built					23
Petrol pumps installed					3
Additional sanitary accommodation at public buildings					9

T A B L E F O U R

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

			<u>Served:</u>	<u>Complied with:</u>
<u>Statutory:</u>				
Public Health Act, 1936	-	Section 93	3	-
do.	do.	-	Section 39	2
do.	do.	-	Section 45	1
 <u>Informal:</u>				
Public Health Act, 1936	..		67	73
Housing Act, 1936	..		34	23
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	..		1	3
Factories Act, 1937	..		-	3
Pests Act, 1949..	..		1	-
Totals:-			<hr/> 103	<hr/> 102

T A B L E F I V E

SYNOPSIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

		Cattle exclud- ing Cows:	Cows:		Calves:		Sheep and Lambs:		Pigs:		
Number killed	a.	148	173		58		1735		570		
	b.	506	48		5		1012		851		
	c.	114	6		-		110		149		
	Totals:	768	227		63		2857		1570		
Number inspected	a.	148	173		58		1735		570		
	b.	506	48		5		1012		851		
	c.	114	6		-		110		149		
	Totals:	768	227		63		2857		1570		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>											
Whole Carcases Condemned	a.	6	4.05	6	3.46	26	44.83	72	4.15	5	0.87
	b.)	-	-	2	3.70	2	40.00	30	2.67	2	0.20
	c.)	-	-	2	3.70	2	40.00	30	2.67	2	0.20
Totals:		6	0.78	8	3.52	28	44.44	102	3.57	7	0.44
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned:	a.	54	36.48	46	26.59	3	5.17	110	6.34	22	3.87
	b.)	55	8.87	8	14.81	-	-	46	4.09	12	1.20
	c.)	55	8.87	8	14.81	-	-	46	4.09	12	1.20
	Totals:	109	14.19	54	23.79	3	4.76	156	5.46	34	2.16
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>											
Whole Carcases Condemned	a.	-	-	2	1.15	-	-	-	-	-	-
	b.)	-	-	1	1.85	-	-	-	-	1	0.10
	c.)	-	-	1	1.85	-	-	-	-	1	0.10
Totals:		-	-	3	1.36	-	-	-	-	1	0.06
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned:	a.	11	7.43	14	8.09	-	-	-	-	6	1.05
	b.)	21	3.38	6	11.11	-	-	-	-	13	1.30
	c.)	21	3.38	6	11.11	-	-	-	-	13	1.30
	Totals:	32	4.16	20	8.81	-	-	-	-	19	1.21

NOTE a. Work carried out at Public Abattoir 1.1.54 - 30.6.54.
b. " " " " " " 1.7.54 - 31.12.54.
c. " " " " Private Slaughterhouses 1.7.54 - 31.12.54.

T A B L E S I X

SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Bovine lbs.	Calves lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Pigs lbs.
Actinomycosis	35	-	-	-
Anaemia	-	-	73	-
Abscesses	155	-	4	5
Angiomata	504	-	-	-
Arthritis	14	-	36	-
Bruising	853	8	239	78
Cirrhosis	1387	-	53	25
Cyst. Bovis	35	-	-	-
Difficult parturition	-	-	81	-
Emaciation	1318	-	621	47
Fevered condition	414	58	1605	-
Imperfect bleeding	-	54	547	-
Injury	1149	82	593	104
Johnes disease	1208	-	-	-
Liver abscesses	-	5	-	-
Malnutrition	-	1270	35	-
Moribund	-	-	260	95
Oedema	258	187	1689	-
Parasitic	142	8	316	21
Pleurisy and pneumonia	-	-	440	67
Putrefaction	-	-	196	120
Septicaemia	1240	-	66	64
Septic Metritis	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	3572	85	-	544
Totals:-	12284	1757	6854	1170

T A B L E S E V E N

PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AT PLACES OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR :

Lamb ..	..	..	..	49	lbs.
Pork ..	..	..	..	37	"
Canned Meat	..	..	..	268	"
" Milk	..	..	..	189	"
" Vegetables		..	..	40	"
" Fish	..	..	..	74	"
" Fruit	..	..	..	419	"
" Soup	..	..	..	45	"
" Liquid eggs		..	..	44	"
Wet Fish	..	..	..	28	"

T A B L E E I G H T

PARTICULARS OF PLANS FORMALLY SUBMITTED

<u>Approved:</u>	New dwellinghouses	...	...	...	24
	Additions and alterations to dwellinghouses				42
	Buildings converted to dwellinghouses	..			3
	Sites for new dwellinghouses	...	...		7
	Conversion of shop into dwellinghouse	..			1
	Conversion of one house into two	...			3
	Conversion of two houses into one	...			1
	Conversion of stable to food preparation room				1
	Sites for garages	...	...	...	1
	Garages and outbuildings	...	...		22
	Temporary holiday bungalows and caravans				6
	Camping sites	...	...	...	2
	New cowsheds and dairy buildings	...			29
	Conversion of farm buildings to cow sheds				4
	Dutch barns	...	...	...	8
	Storage sheds	...	...	...	10
	Additions and alterations to Schools	...			3
	" " " " Factories				6
	" " " " Licensed premises				3
	" " " " Public buildings				2
	" " " " Business premises				3
	Poultry sheds, loose boxes, bull pens and piggeries	...	...	...	5
	Overhead Electricity Supply Lines	...			18
	Transmitting Station	...	...	...	1
	Installation of septic tank	...	...		1
	Formation of access	...	...	...	6
	Winning of sand and gravel	...	...		1
	Use of land as a car park	...	...		1
	Use of land as a Welfare Centre		...		1
	Use of hut as public building		...		1
	Use of hut as a dwellinghouse		...		1
	Petrol pumps and tanks	...	...		4
	Petrol Filling Station	...	...		2
	Children's playground	...	...		1
	Site for storage reservoir	...	...		2
	Refuse Tip	...	...	...	1
	Use of dwelling accommodation for agricultural purposes	...	...	...	2
	Use of dwellinghouse as shop	...	...		1
	Re-roofing of doctor's surgery		...		1
	Bus Shelter	...	...	...	1
	Site for Royal Ordnance Corp Post		...		1
<u>Rejected:</u>	Siting of dwellinghouses	...	...		2
	Siting of caravans	...	...	...	2
	Use of land as a Sawmill	...	...		1

T A B L E N I N E

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT OF WASTE
PAPER SALVAGED

Year:			Tons	Cwts.
1942	..	..	158	10
1943	..	..	131	12
1944	..	..	131	17
1945	..	..	80	3
1946	..	..	104	6
1947	..	..	77	7
1948	..	..	105	3
1949	..	..	117	13
1950	..	..	91	10
1951	..	..	102	14
1952	..	..	71	9
1953	..	..	42	6
1954	..	..	44	0
Total:-			1,258	10

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

ROBT. C. BLACKBURN

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

